EQUAL RIGHTS

"MEN AND WOMEN SHALL HAVE EQUAL RIGHTS THROUGHOUT THE UNITED STATES AND EVERY PLACE SUBJECT TO ITS JURISDICTION"

Amendment to the United States Constitution now before Congress.

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PERIODICAL DIVISION

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August 15, 1937

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Equal Rights

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NATIONAL WOMAN'S PARTY

OBJECT

To secure for women complete equality with men under the law and in all human relationships—in particular to secure the adoption of the Equal Rights Amendment to the Constitution, and the adherence of the United States to the Equal Rights Treaty. The Woman's Party also supports the proposed Equality Amendments to the Covenant of the League of Nations.

THE PROPOSED EQUAL RIGHTS AMENDMENT

"Art. 1—Men and women shall have Equal Rights throughout the United States and every place subject to its jurisdiction.

"Art. 2—Congress shall have power to enforce this article by appropriate legislation."

Introduced

Senate—By Senator Townsend, (Del.), and Senator Burke, (Neb.), Feb. 5, 1937, (Senate Joint Resolution No. 65).

House—By Representative Ludlow, (Ind.), Jan. 5, 1937, (House Joint Resolution No. 1).

Present Status

Senate—Before Judiciary Committee; favorable report by sub-judiciary committee June 23, 1937.

House—Before Judiciary Committee; favorable report by sub-judiciary committee June 16, 1937.

THE EQUAL RIGHTS TREATY

"Art. 1—The contracting States agree that upon the ratification of this Treaty men and women shall have Equal Rights throughout the territory subject to their respective jurisdictions."

Signed

By Cuba, Ecuador, Paraguay, and Uruguay, at Montevideo, December, 1933.

PROPOSED EQUALITY AMENDMENTS TO COVENANT OF LEAGUE OF NATIONS

"The members of the League undertake that in their respective countries the right to vote shall not be denied or abridged on the ground of sex."

"The members of the League undertake that in their respective countries there shall be no distinction based on sex in their law and practice regarding nationality."

"The members of the League undertake that in their respective countries men and women shall have equal rights in all other fields."

"The members of the League undertake that there shall be both men and women, with full voting powers, in all delegations to the Council and Assembly of the League and to all Conferences under the auspices of the League."

Present Status

On agenda of the September, 1937, Assembly of the League of Nations.

Do Women Desire More Proof?

NO SOONER have women cause to rejoice over one victory over discriminatory laws, than another discrimination arises. In the midst of rejoicing over two victories for the Equal Rights Amendment, which recently had favorable reports from sub-committees of the Senate and House Judiciary Committees, and over the repeal of Section 213 of the National Economy Act, the Nationwide Wage Hour bill emerged from the House Labor Committee with an amendment calculated to bar women from night work from midnight until six o'clock in the morning.

What more proof could one ask of the immediate necessity for the Equal Rights Amendment to the Constitution of the United States guaranteeing to women equality under the law? With such an amendment in the Constitution, women could then feel certain that regulatory laws, such as the proposed Wage Hour law, would apply to all workers, and not merely to women.

Every time a legislative body, either state or national, is in session, women are in danger of losing the gains they have already made, and of having additional burdens in the shape of more restrictive laws placed upon their shoulders.

It is high time *women* be given the security the Constitution *has always* afforded *men*. It requires eternal vigilance and constant effort on their part even to retain the right to work for a living, unhampered by restrictive laws that do not apply to their male competitors. It also is high time that those who prate of barring women from night work and certain occupations from the standpoint of morals, should understand that the morals of a woman with a job, by means of which she is able to feed, clothe and house herself, are much safer than those of a woman barred possibly from a night job, which may be the only job available, and hence denied the necessities of life.

Do women desire *more proof?*

Now Is The Opportune Time

COMMENTING upon the present status of the Equal Rights Amendment, which recently received favorable reports from the sub-committees of the Senate and House Judiciary Committees, the Seattle, Wash., *Post-Intelligencer* says:

"Men and women shall have equal rights throughout the United States and every place subject to its jurisdiction."

That it should take nearly a hundred years to establish such a principle into American law is one of the mysteries of our times.

Liberals and conservatives in politics, who divide so sharply on many current issues, have no cause for division on this grant of elementary justice to American women.

Senator Burke, of Nebraska, who described himself as a "progressive conservative" in a Flag Day speech before the American Defense Society in New York City, says of the report:

"This action confirms the belief of many forward-looking women that now is the opportune time to press vigorously for submission to the people of this proposal to treat all adults as human beings with equal rights and responsibilities."

An objective for which the women of the United States have crusaded untiringly for a century is thus advanced toward its ultimate and inevitable attainment.

Working Women Again Threatened With Restriction

HOUSE COMMITTEE AMENDMENT WOULD BAR WOMEN FROM WORKING AT SPECIFIED HOURS OF THE NIGHT

AS EQUAL RIGHTS goes to press, the Nationwide Wage Hour Bill, passed by the Senate and amended by the House Labor Committee, to which it was referred, is due for consideration by the House of Representatives. The bill in this form contains a discriminatory provision inserted at the last moment in committee, which would bar women from night work after midnight in employments in and affecting interstate commerce.

The amendment comes under the heading "sub-standard industries" and provides that the products of these "sub-standard industries" shall be prohibited from shipment in interstate commerce.

The newspaper industry, for instance, has always come under interstate commerce. Telephone and telegraph companies likewise are affected. Jobs of women reporters, linotype operators, copy readers, editors, telephone and telegraph employees, radio and many others would be jeopardized and the industries employing them would be classed as "sub-standard industries," should the bill be passed with this provision included.

If newspaper women and others in industries affected are not left free to work during the necessary working hours, or to work during these hours in times of emergency, they will be eliminated in favor of men, who are free to work whenever they please. Neither women nor minors are treated fairly or intelligently when the two groups are classed together in regulatory legislation. Regulations to protect the health and morals of minors are wholly unfair to adult women, who feel that they should be permitted to work at whatever hours work is obtainable. Regulations, they are convinced, should apply to the job and not to the sex.

There are not always enough day jobs to go around, and if women are denied the opportunity of working at night, even though able-bodied and desirous of work, they may be thrown on relief—not through any fault of their own—but by law.

The proposed restriction as to night work would apply to children, adolescents, mothers and grandmothers alike, which is manifestly unfair to both women and minors.

It has been pointed out that the object of the regulation was the elimination of the midnight to six o'clock shift, rather than the elimination of women, but the result is the latter.

In conflict with the discriminatory provision, lines 23 and 24 of page 8 of the amended bill read: "All wage and hour regulations under the provisions of this Act shall apply to workers without regard to sex," which is fair and just.

ANALYSIS OF NIGHT WORK PROHIBITION IN WAGE HOUR BILL

By REBEKAH S. GREATHOUSE
Member of District of Columbia Bar

As the bill stands, any person employing a woman between midnight and 6 a. m. for transportation or manufacture of anything to be shipped in interstate commerce—including communication—is liable to a fine of $500 (with certain exceptions in respect to agricultural products, etc.).

Under the Act, Substandard Labor is defined as a condition of employment under which (A) wages are oppressive, (B) the work week is oppressive, (C) oppressive child labor exists, (D) *women or minors are employed between midnight and 6 a. m.*

(A), (B), and (C) do not involve any penalty until particular conditions are examined into by the Board and an order issued, but in the case of adult women (D), employers are automatically liable to the fine without any order of the Board. This means that all employers under the Act, to protect themselves, must immediately discharge all women who work after midnight.

Women forced out of good paying jobs of reasonable duration which may project into the period between midnight and 6 a. m. may be obliged to take oppressive jobs in canneries at any hour, at any wages, or to scrub floors in office buildings.

The provision on page 16 for pay and a half for the shift between midnight and 6 a. m. should accomplish the purpose of the legislators to discourage night work. Night work will then be done only under exceptional conditions and the workers will be amply repaid. This provision will afford an opportunity for the workers to be heard on the question as to whether substandard conditions actually exist.

The entire spirit of the Wage Hour Bill is to vest discretion in a Board and the provision to bar women from night work is contrary to that spirit, and may create hardship for many women and employers, without possibility of correction. The blanket prohibition against night work for adult women, limiting their choice as to the work they will pursue, seems out of harmony with the intent of the bill to relieve conditions in industry.

Quoting from presidents of the two national wings of the Labor movement in the United States:

John L. Lewis, President of the United Mine Workers and leader of C. I. O.: "With respect to a minimum wage, I believe that minimum wage laws should be based on the principle of equality between men and women; that is to say, that a minimum wage for a worker doing a given task should be based on the conditions of the work, and not on the sex of the worker . . . Discrimination against women workers will affect the security of all workers."

William Green, President of the Federation of Labor: "Wage and hour regulations in the act should apply to the nature of the work and not be based on sex. If that is not specified in the bill, I am in favor of such a provision."

Secretary of Labor Frances Perkins, testifying at the Joint Hearings before the Committee on Education and Labor in regard to this bill very definitely stated her position as to sex discrimination.

The testimony follows:

"Senator La Follette—Miss Perkins, have you given any consideration to suggestions that have been made concerning the necessity for incorporating in the bill some provision which would require the fixing of a minimum on the basis of occupation rather than on the basis of the sex?

"Secretary Perkins—Yes. It is implied in the bill, is it not?

"Senator La Follette—I do not believe the bill provides for it specifically.

"Secretary Perkins—No, but I assume that these minima should be fixed on the basis of work done and

(*Continued on page* 120)

Equality Versus Protection

By Burnita Shelton Matthews

Speech against the Women's Charter delivered before the Biennial Convention National Federation of Business and Professional Women's Clubs, Atlantic City, New Jersey, July 23, 1937.

TO RAISE the status of women throughout the world is a hope we all cherish. The proponents of the Women's Charter sincerely believe in its effectiveness to achieve women's advancement. Other groups, however, view the Charter as a handicap to women's progress, and a step backward. I will endeavor to show that the best interests of women will not be served by this Charter.

The fatal fault of the Women's Charter is that it proceeds upon the erroneous assumption that women may have "full opportunity for employment" and special protection as inferiors at the same time. What special protection really means is that women are forbidden by law to earn money in the same way and under the same conditions as other workers. If women workers are segregated and not allowed to enter and remain in paid employment on terms available to other workers, then clearly it is not possible for these women to enjoy the "full opportunity for employment" set forth in the Charter.

Let us consider the Women's Charter in the light of the circumstances surrounding its birth. What are these circumstances? Some years ago a movement began all over the world to curtail or to extinguish the liberties of women. Here, there and yonder action was taken to deprive women of economic freedom as a means of relieving the unemployment of men. This world wide movement against women found expression not only in local and national laws of various countries but in treaties between nations. Such was the sorry state of affairs when a few crusaders went forth to battle on a world-wide front in defense of the rights of women. One result of the long and laborious struggle of these women is that delegations of 15 countries have requested that the agenda for the Assembly of the League of Nations for 1937 include consideration of—first, political rights for women; second, nationality laws without distinction based on sex; third, equal rights for men and women in all other fields, and fourth, the inclusion of women as well as men in all League delegations. In this international setting it is now sought to project the Women's Charter. The proposals already before the League on the status of women include equal rights for men and women in all fields. The Women's Charter, on the other hand, denies economic equality.

If you believe that the right to engage in paid work is primarily the prerogative of the male, and if you believe that women should be allowed paid employment only at special hours, and at not less than a fixed wage, and under special supervision and subject to special governmental regulations, then support the Women's Charter.

But if you believe that women should be free to live and work under the general rules governing the rest of society; that regulations for workers should be based on the nature of the work and not the sex of the worker, and that legal discriminations against women should end, then support the equality proposals now before the League of Nations and the Equal Rights Amendment now before Congress. This proposed amendment to the Federal Constitution provides:

> "Men and women shall have equal rights throughout the United States and every place subject to its jurisdiction."

The women proposing the Charter say that labor legislation under the Charter will be based on "experience", and that they intend to submit the charter to the International Labor Office. In a work published within recent years by the International Labor Office and described as "An Encyclopaedia of Hygiene, Pathology and Social Welfare, studied from the point of view of Labour, Industry and Trade," the following general statements are made:

> "The injurious effects of labour on the female organism are established by quite a series of statistical data."
>
> "The injurious effect of employment on women is proved."
>
> "According to Bernays, the rhythm of machinery is not adapted to the female organism."
>
> "Intellectual work is said to be a still heavier cause of sickness among women."
>
> "The same holds good for those engaged in office work."

I have quoted these scientific findings because they are based on "experience," and because the women sponsoring the Women's Charter say that labor legislation for women under the charter will be based on "experience."

In an article written by a sponsor of the Charter she says that labor legislation under the charter is not in any instance to "violate the principle of equal opportunity for employment according to individual abilities." She then points out that for women printers in New York who are protected by trade unions against long hours the women's charter would have supported an exemption. Why does she think so? Some years ago in New York the women printers woke up one morning to find themselves "protected," indeed "specially protected" so that during certain hours they could not work. This protection, they said, protected them out of their seniority rights as well as the best paying shifts. When these women tried to get themselves exempted from this "protection," they met the opposition of the Women's Trade Union League and the Consumers League and others. Both these Leagues have an official sponsoring the Women's Charter. No one can say that in a similar case the charter group would not take the position of those two Leagues, and resist an exemption for the better paid workers on the ground that an exemption would "provide a dangerous precedent that would react unfavorably upon the large body of women to whom the act as a whole applied."

In upholding the Women's Charter and favoring labor laws for women which do not apply to their men competitors, the speaker preceding me said that the first minimum wage decision guaranteed to women the "liberty to starve." If by the "first" minimum wage decision she means the Adkins case decided in 1923 then let us remember that it was "special protection" and not the decision which gave women the "liberty to starve." A woman in that case complained

that she lost her job to a man because the minimum wage law applied to her but not to him. And the Court of Appeals of the District of Columbia said something like this:

> "The hotel manager was not compelled to employ her at a fixed wage, and her position went to a man, who was willing to perform the service at a lower wage than that fixed by the board. The law to promote the good morals and general welfare of the community cast her adrift."

Official reports from Oregon and North Dakota show that minimum wage legislation applying only to women, handicaps women in getting work, and enables men and boys to undercut them. The Attorney General of Ohio recently urged the upholding of minimum wage legislation for women as a means of lessening the unemployment of men.

Finally, the aim of the Women's Charter is an entirely new social order. One of the most outstanding of the sponsors of the Women's Charter says there is a need for combining three movements, namely, feminism, social reform and the trade union movement. So in the final analysis, the primary purpose of the Women's Charter is to attain a more just world order "for women and for society as a whole." This purpose is praiseworthy, but I for one do not believe that equality for women should wait for a new social order. One of the reasons for women's degraded position in some parts of the world today, as in Germany, is that women themselves did not prize their liberties, and took up the false doctrine that other movements are more important than the movement for the freedom of women. The significance of their liberties and their opportunities became clear to them only after they were enslaved. Efforts have always been made here and elsewhere to have women take up every reform under the shining sun except one for the advancement of their own status. Women should no longer permit themselves to be sidetracked.

As free daughters of free America, let us hold fast to the banner of equality and liberty for women, for in that course lies the fulfillment of our highest ideals.

Equal Rights S. O. S.

Throughout the United States there are women who desire to do their bit in campaigning for the Equal Rights Amendment, but do not know how to make their assistance felt.

A Woman's Party Founder has started a One-Dollar-Fund, a contingent fund for which there is great need *immediately* and to which everyone interested is urged to contribute. It will make possible much necessary work that otherwise could not be undertaken at this time and will pay great dividends to women of the nation who will benefit through passage of the Equal Rights Amendment with its guarantee of equality.

In order that everyone may be able to contribute to this fund, the following three methods have been devised:

You may give—
One dollar a year
One dollar a month ($12 a year)
One dollar a week ($52 a year)
One dollar a day ($365 a year)

Address "One Dollar Fund, National Woman's Party, 144 B Street, Northeast, Washington, D. C."

Government Workers Council Celebrate Repeal of Section 213

More than two hundred members of the Government Workers Council, National Woman's Party, and their friends assembled in the garden of Alva Belmont House, National Headquarters of the Woman's Party, on the evening of August 5, to celebrate the repeal of Section 213 of the National Economy Act, under which so many married women lost their jobs.

One of the loveliest events ever given in the garden, the Government Workers Council of the Woman's Party, which led the national campaign for repeal of the measure, paid special honor to Senator Kenneth McKellar, of Tennessee, and Representative Emanuel Celler, of New York, sponsors of the repeal bill, and to Representative Caroline O'Day, of New York, who materially assisted throughout the years; Representative Robert Ramspeck, of Georgia, who was in charge of the bill for the majority; Representative Edith Nourse Rogers, of Massachusetts, in charge of debate for the minority; Representative Patrick J. Boland, of Pennsylvania, Democratic whip; Representative Sam Rayburn, of Texas, Democratic House Majority Leader; Representative Bertrand Snell, House Minority Leader; Representative John J. O'Connor, of New York, chairman of the House Rules Committee; Representative Virginia Jenckes, of Indiana; Representative Mary T. Norton, of New Jersey; Representative Nan Wood Honeymoon, of Oregon, and others.

Receiving were Mrs. Edwina Austin Avery, chairman of the Council; Mrs. Grace Cochran, vice-chairman; Vera Johnson, Congressional chairman, and the following board members: Helen Forbes, Page Kirk, Florence Heath, Florence Baillee, Grace Brewer, Abbie Owen, Edith Forester, May Gross, Gladys Whalley, Hilda Weinerth, Lydia Beehler, Lillian Niccum and Emily Newnan.

Throughout the affair a several piece orchestra rendered a program of music. Guests found in the Old Coach House what was pointed out as the "grave of Section 213," above which was the following epitaph: "Here lies 213." Representative Ramspeck, and Representative O'Day joined others in placing a flower on the final resting place of the unmourned discrimination against women.

Through the efforts of the Government Workers Council of the National Woman's Party, nearly every national organization of women in the United States joined in the campaign for repeal of Section 213. The celebration was the final chapter in the five-year struggle, which ended in victory on July 26 when President Roosevelt signed the bill.

NEW REPRINTS

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50 for $1

Send Orders to

ALMA LUTZ
National Woman's Party
144 B St., Northeast Washington, D. C.

The Woman Movement In Estonia

By Helmi Maelo
Editor of the Estonian Woman

THE Woman Movement began in Estonia only thirty years ago. At that time Estonia was not yet an independent state but was subjected to Russian rule and the formation of social or any other organizations was still very difficult. Only temperance societies and musical or choral unions were allowed. Yet even here work was rendered more difficult, as every public speech had to be translated into Russian and only after it had been perused by the Russian censor, who crossed out everything he did not like, could it be delivered. All this worked very slowly and it frequently happened that the license of the censor arrived many months *after* the occasion for which the speech had been intended. To citizens of a free state this may seem almost fabulous today.

For a long time the first women's association founded at Tartu remained the only one in the country, as the formation of new associations was prohibited. Only about 1917 when the revolution in Russia spread more liberal ideas, women's associations were formed all over Estonia. The first women's association was officially allowed to devote itself only to the development of skill in needle-work and to charitable activities. The associations founded later became already more feminist in character.

In 1917, on May 27, representatives of all women's organizations of Estonia assembled for the first Congress. This Congress is written *with golden letters into the history of Estonia, as here for the first time openly and officially independence was demanded for the Estonian people.* No such demand had been made in public before and now the women were the first who ventured it.

The realization of their hopeful dreams, however, was still delayed and there followed a time of hardship and difficulties: the Red terror, the German occupation of the land, and the exhausting mouth of the war of independence. In 1920 the second women's Congress was held—this time in a free Estonia.

Neither the men nor the women had had any rights until freedom was gained, and as the Estonian women had fought for it side by side with the men, it was a matter of course that with the establishment of independent Estonia the women were given equal rights with the men.

The Estonian woman, therefore, has never experienced that weary struggle for enfranchisement (the right to vote), in which the women of other much older nations have had to, and still must, engage. In this the Estonian woman was fortunate; yet it has brought about also some undesirable consequences, for many women in Estonia not having had to fight for their rights have remained indifferent to the woman movement, and will not realize why it should still be necessary today

The better informed portion of Estonian women, however, is not blind to the fact that the constantly changing conditions of life necessitate new laws, at the formulation and passing of which the women ought to be on their guard lest they should sink once more to the level of secondary citizen. This watch over the process of legislation is kept in Estonia by the Estonian Women's Union, around which have gathered a number of other women's organizations. Of great influence therefore have proved to be the congresses held by the Estonian Women's Union.

As in many other countries there has developed in Estonia as a part of the powerful Woman Movement —the Country-Woman movement. It has for its object mainly the promotion of professional skill—if the occupations of a country-woman may be called a profession—but also aims of intellectual development.

The Country-Woman Movement is one of the largest in Estonia, but as the most powerful of all women's organizations may be regarded one of a type hardly known to you, for there is no immediate necessity for it in America. We call it the "naiskodukaitse" which means, roughly translated, the Women's Union of Home Defence. The duty of the members of this organization is to be ready to render what help they may, should war threaten their country. They are, of course, not supposed to take part in armed contests but will have to attend to wounded men and to regulate the food-supply, etc.

For them training courses are constantly arranged in which they are taught how to render first aid, how the feeding of masses is to be arranged, etc. The cultivation of the patriotic sentiment among its members is also one of the primary objects of this Union.

For all that, the Estonian Women's Union of Home Defense as well as the whole Estonian people is strongly opposed to war. We do not want to have any wars—for our people have only too often and too deeply felt their destructive consequences. But we are compelled to be on the watch for any danger that might threaten from across our frontiers, and have to be ready to defend ourselves in case of attack. Estonia, however, eagerly wishes to see all dangers of war dispelled by the mutual cooperation of the great European powers, as well as of America.

Lastly I want to say a few words about that section of the Woman Movement to which I belong. The Women's Temperance Movement began in Estonia in 1922 and the stimulus for starting it we received from Finland. A subsequent visit of Miss Agnes E. Slack to Estonia resulted in our entering into contact with W.W.C.T.U. For the promotion of our work we have repeatedly received even monetary assistance from the W.W.C.T.U. For the first time a delegate from Estonia attended the Convention of the W.W.C.T.U. that was held in Edinburgh; the second time we sent four delegates to the Convention at Stockholm and now for the third time we have been able—though not without difficulties—to take part in the Washington Convention.

When we started the Women's Temperance Movement in Estonia, it was clear to us that in the first place the idea had to be made known to the people at large. For this purpose we arranged in 1922 the first great conference, to which women all over Estonia were summoned. Our proposals were favorably received and we could set to work to carry out our plans.

We started organizing women's temperance societies and to collect pledges of temperance from women. We arranged courses for mothers which were warmly approved, and which have been carried on since then with great success. Further we started the so-called "Mothers' Days," and on May 9, this year the fifteenth Mothers' Day was celebrated all over Estonia according to our own program.

These Mothers' Days have become festal days of the

whole Estonian people and even the Government helps much to render them successful.

In order to keep children from the danger of alcohol, we decided to start collecting pledges from parents not to offer alcoholic drinks to their children. For this purpose a special card with a picture is signed by the parents, and then presented to the child. This is the custom in Denmark from whence we have taken it.

All children for whom their parents have signed the pledge are entered in a book, and we call them "the Children of the Golden Book." Until now there are more than three thousand children's names in the "Golden Book," and next winter we intend to proceed energetically with this work.

The danger of alcohol is very great in Estonia as alcoholic drinks are only too easily obtained, and for this reason the percentage of crimes due to intoxication is very high. Every day the Women's Temperance Union is gathering statistical facts about such crimes from the daily press and these are published in the monthly journal *The Estonian Woman.*

The Estonian Woman is edited by the Women's Temperance Union and is intended for women and their homes. As a journal dealing only with questions of temperance would not, I am sorry to say, bring in enough to cover the expenses of publishing, *The Estonian Woman* contains also articles of general knowledge.

Today this journal is the only one edited only by and for women in Estonia. Attached to it is a supplement called "The Friend of the Little Ones."

As the use of alcoholic drinks is largely determined by nutrition, we founded at Tartu a small reformatory eating-house with a school for domestics attached to it. There is always a great rush to enter this school which has been working since 1928. Our little eating house has quite perceptibly influenced other eating houses which have adopted many reforms made by us.

There is a friendly cooperation between all women's organizations of Estonia. Frequently joint conferences are held and every five years a great general women's Congress takes place, which is attended by delegates from all women's organizations. This Congress is arranged by the Estonian Women's Union.

In addition to the women's organizations mentioned there exist a number of women-students' organizations, which are following educational aims.

Many of those women whose university careers are already finished, have formed Academic Women's Associations which are concerned mainly with women's rights, and scientific research.

The Estonian Woman's Movement, as you have seen, is still very young; but we have tried to take the best from the Woman Movement of other nations and to turn it to good account in our own country.

President Quezon For Equal Rights

President Manuel Quezon, of the Philippines, in a statement to Equal Rights in Washington, D. C., in July expressed his unqualified approval of equal rights between men and women.

"Twenty-five years ago in my country I introduced the first bill offered for the purpose of enfranchising our women," he said. "It did not pass at that time, but this year a plebiscite was held and the night preceding the election I broadcast from New York City in favor of enfranchising women of the Phillipines. The women won."

"I see no reason," said President Quezon, "why women should not be on a basis of complete equality with men. I am in favor of it."

Equadorian Official Replies to Letter From Chairman of Woman's Party

Women throughout the world, upon learning of the threat to disfranchise the women of Ecuador in redrafting the Constitution of that nation this month, have been protesting against this threat by one of the signatories of the Equal Rights Treaties in 1933.

Many organizations passed resolutions deploring such a proposal and urging the government of Ecuador not to mar its good record in advancing the cause of women.

The following letter replies to a letter addressed to the Supreme Chief, Republic of Ecuador, by Mrs. Sarah Pell, national chairman, National Woman's Party:

(Translation)

REPUBLIC OF ECUADOR
SUPREME CHIEF
SECRETARIAT

No. 2373/B
Quito, Ecuador
June 18, 1937

MRS. SARAH PELL
Alva Belmont House
Capitol Hill
Washington, D. C.

By the authorization of my chief I take pleasure in acknowledging receipt of your thoughtful communication under date of May 28 to the Supreme Chief of the Republic in your position as Chairman of the National Woman's Party, which relates to the vote of women in this republic.

Engineer Frederico Paez, entrusted with the supreme mandate of the Republic, desires me to make known to you that in the Republic of Ecuador women have the right to vote; and proof of this is that recently a considerable number of women have been registered, these same women being able to take part in the next elections for representatives to the Constituent Assembly. I consider that this information merits being told all the members who make up the National Woman's Party.

I take the opportunity to sign myself

Yours very sincerely,
(Signed) TEODORO ALVARADO GARAICOA,
Secretary to the Supreme Chief of the Republic.

Woman Named Consul at Geneva

Margaret M. Hanna, who came to Washington from Ann Arbor, Mich., in 1895 as assistant secretary to Assistant Secretary of State Alvey A. Adee, and has served in the State Department for forty-two years, has just been appointed United States consul at Geneva, Switzerland.

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Investment Service for Women Only
GERTRUDE I. GEORGE
Realtor
FOUNDER and DIRECTOR
WOMEN'S SERVICE DEPARTMENT
1009 South Grand Ave. Los Angeles, Cal.

GERTRUDE I. GEORGE, Chairman for Equal Rights Petition, Western Region — Director Business Woman's Legislative Council of California; secured 148,000 signatures for Equal Rights Amendment petition for California alone.

A Lawyer In Spite Of Herself

By Alma Lutz

FATE RIDES A TORTOISE: A biography of Ellen Spencer Mussey. By Grace Hathaway. The John C. Winston Company, Philadelphia.....$2.50

GRACE HATHAWAY has written a very readable and interesting biography of one of our pioneer women lawyers, Ellen Spencer Mussey (1850-1936), founder with Emma Gillett of the Washington College of Law.

Ellen Spencer Mussey was not a born feminist, with a driving ambition for a law career, but circumstances and ability forced her into the profession and opened the way for her to be of great service to women.

She discovered law when she was sixteen, while she was attending a business college in South Bend, Indiana, conducted by her brother-in-law. The instructor of business law, who was an attorney and the mayor of South Bend, found her abilities so marked that he tried to persuade her to take up the study of law in his office.

In reply she gasped, "There are no women lawyers."

"Not yet," he admitted, "but there will be women lawyers and you will be one."

But Ellen Spencer could not yet visualize a woman lawyer. She rather wished she were a man, so that she could pursue such an interesting profession, but other matters soon occupied her mind.

His prophecy was correct, but many years intervened before it came true. Her first step in that direction was to marry a lawyer, General Reuben Delavan Mussey. Then in 1876 when she was 26, she was forced to look after his law practice during his serious illness. She did this easily and very successfully, but even then could not feel that women belonged in this profession. When her husband recovered, she was ready to give up her work, but he insisted that she had shown her ability and must continue. She now learned something of the status of woman, and began to question traditions respecting woman's ability and her place in society. When General Mussey died some years later and she was obliged to support herself and her children, there was but one thing for her to do—to continue seriously the practice of law and be admitted to the bar.

She decided it would be well to take a course at a law school to prepare for the bar examinations, but to her dismay discovered that women were not admitted to the law schools of National University in Washington or Columbia College in Georgetown. Finally because of her long legal experience and through the influence of Judge McArthur, she was given an informal oral examination and admitted to the bar in 1893 when she was 43.

Gradually more women in the District of Columbia wanted to study law, but the only school that accepted women in law classes was Howard University, a school for negroes. With the help of Emma Gillett who had studied law with Belva Lockwood, Mrs. Mussey opened a Women's Law Class in 1896, for three students. The demand for this instruction became so insistent that in 1898, these two capable women founded the Washington College of Law, the first law school in the world established primarily for women. Mrs. Mussey served as Dean. The School was coeducational and some years later men joined the classes. The success of the law school and its service to women is well known. Many prominent women were trained in its classes, among them Laura Berrien, Annabel Matthews, Katharine Pike, Kathryn Sellers and others.

Mrs. Mussey was gradually drawn into the struggle for woman suffrage and in many ways was able to exert great influence to further women's advancement.

In this connection Miss Hathaway has referred to the Suffrage Amendment introduced in Congress in 1878 as having been drafted by Susan B. Anthony. This opinion is widespread and persists in spite of the fact that there is no evidence that this Amendment was drafted by Miss Anthony. It was introduced by Senator Sargent at the instigation of Elizabeth Cady Stanton who was in Washington at the time, and who probably wrote it, patterning it after the Fifteenth Amendment which conferred suffrage on the negro. Miss Anthony was in the West on a lecture tour and Mrs. Stanton wrote her about it, quoting the Amendment word for word. They had of course discussed and planned this move together previously and the Amendment was undoubtedly the result of their joint efforts. But as Mrs. Stanton was the scribe of the National Woman Suffrage Association, writing appeals, resolutions, and most of the official papers, the actual drafting of the Amendment was probably her work.

FATE RIDES A TORTOISE gives an interesting picture of life in Washington in the seventies and eighties and of the difficulties faced by our first women lawyers. It belongs on every feminist bookshelf.

Working Women Again Threatened With Restriction

(*Continued from page* 115)

not on the basis of sex. I assumed that it was anticipated that the minimum wage would be for all who worked in the lower classifications.

"Senator La Follette—I heard a suggestion that there being no specific provision in the act that the Board might be subjected to a good deal of pressure to fix different minima.

"Secretary Perkins—You mean to fix different minima for women and men doing the same work?

"Senator La Follette—Yes.

"Secretary Perkins—Well, I had not anticipated that any such procedure could be contemplated under this bill, but if that question has been raised, I should be very glad to say that I do not think there should be any difference. I mean the minimum wage should be fixed for the occupation and not according to the age or sex of the employee.

"Senator La Follette—For the occupation?

"Secretary Perkins—Yes. I had anticipated, however, that by the very wording of this bill that was taken care of. If it is not, I should be in favor of it."

It therefore is clear that the original intent was for wage and hour regulations to apply equally to all. The "no night work" clause would work a great hardship on women throughout the United States.